

Hibben, John Greer

President, Princeton University

Jan. 1916

January 11th, 1916

President John Greer Hibben,
Princeton University.

My dear President Hibben:

It is very kind indeed of you to ask me to deliver four lectures at Princeton during the coming spring. I appreciate very much your kind thought in the matter. I regret, however, that it will be impossible for me to work the subject into anything like a reasonable form in so short a time, particularly at this season of the year and in this war year when there are so many urgent matters coming up for consideration constantly. At some future time, however, if you should still think of having me speak to your students I should be glad to do my best, though the subject is, as you are aware, not an easy one for me to handle.

We are having a sad time. Our attendance has been greatly reduced, and students are leaving us for enlistment every few days. Already we have about 1700 graduates and undergraduates at the front, and there are 83 of our staff on active service, of whom 40 are in charge of a Base Hospital of 1040 beds at Salonica. Already we have 27 deaths from those who have enlisted. This is a heavy drain, but I believe that we are learning many things as a result of it, and that we have a new country.

I have followed with much interest in the New York "Times" what you have been saying with regard to military summer schools for your students. We had one last spring for 12 days attended

by 600 of our students who are connected with our Officers' Training Corps. The report from everyone who was there was most favourable as to the effect it had upon the students.

I hope that when the war is over and things get back to their normal conditions we may have another visit from you and that then you will bring Mrs. Hibben. Mrs. Falconer is not at home at present, but I know she would join me in kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

